FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Latino Issues Forum Honors Assemblymember De La Torre with 2008 Outstanding Consumer Advocate of the Year Award

Los Angeles, CA— Latino Issues Forum (LIF) a public policy and advocacy institute dedicated to advancing new and innovative public policy solutions for a better, more equitable and prosperous society is proud to honor Assemblymember Hector De La Torre (D-South Gate) with the 2008 Outstanding Consumer Advocate Award for championing the passage of the Prepaid Phone Card Service bill (AB 2885) which was signed into law by the Governor this year.

"This bill grants the California Public Utilities Commission (CPCU) legal authority to protect consumers of prepaid calling cards against unscrupulous calling card providers," said LIF Executive Director Nora Vargas. "This bill ensures that consumers are protected while using calling cards. Many Californians, particularly many Latino residents, rely on prepaid phone cards to call family and friends abroad. As demand in this market continues to grow, we have to ensure that providers are held accountable when they break the law."

WHO: Latino Issues Forum, Executive Director Nora Vargas

Assemblymember Hector De La Torre

Assembly Speaker Karen Bass

Los Angeles Councilmember Jose Huizar

WHAT: LIF honors Assemblymember De La Torre with coveted Consumer Advocate Award for

his commitment and track record in protecting California Consumers.

WHEN: Thursday, October 16th, 2008, 6 p.m.

WHERE: City Club of Los Angeles

333 S. Grand Ave., 54th Floor Los Angeles, CA 90071

Background: Latino Issues Forum Latino Issues Forum (LIF) is a non-profit public policy and

advocacy institute dedicated to advancing new and innovative public policy solutions for a better, more equitable and prosperous society. Established in 1987, LIF's primary focus is on the broader issues of education, health care, the environment,

telecommunications, and civic participation.